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Grant of lands on darkhast or on lease to certain landless poor labourers enjoying occupancy rights in the Reserve Forest of Muliyar in Kasargode taluk, South Kanara district.

* 1238 *Q.*—SRI M. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have received a copy of any resolution regarding the grant of lands on darkhast or on lease to certain landless poor labourers who have been enjoying occupancy rights in the Reserve Forest of Muliyar and neighbouring villages passed by the Kisan Panchayat Conference on 14th May 1953 at Muliyar in Kasargode taluk, South Kanara district; and

(*b*) if so, the action taken thereon?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" (*a*) Yes.

" (*b*) It was examined by the Government and it was decided that each case of encroachment in the buffer areas should be dealt with on its merits."

SRI M. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR :—" Since these lands have been in continuous occupation for a very long time and since valuable improvements have been effected on these lands, may I know whether the Government will consider the question of the grant of lands on darkhast? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" I have already answered that decisions will be taken on merits. If certain encroachments would affect the interests of reserve forests, it is not possible to grant that request."

SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP :—" Is it not a fact that these tenants were in occupation of these lands before the reserve forests were actually constituted? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" It might be so, Sir. But the interests of reserve forests that have since been constituted must have prior consideration."

Statistics about village panchayats.

* 1239 *Q.*—SRI S. RADHAKRISHNAN (on behalf of Sri K. R. Viswanathan) : Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state—

(i) the number of members in the village panchayats (major and minor);

(ii) the other local bodies; and

(iii) the number of presidents of panchayats and other local bodies, belonging to Harijan Communities and Scheduled Tribes (separately)?

THE HON. SRI S. S. RAMASAMI PADAYACHI :—" (i) The number of members of village panchayats belonging to the Harijan community and the Scheduled Tribes is 4,973 and 25 respectively.

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"(ii) The number of members of municipal councils belonging to the Harijan community is 113. There is no member belonging to Scheduled Tribes on any municipal council.

"(iii) The total number of presidents of panchayats who belong to the Harijan community is 224 and of those who belong to the Scheduled Tribes is 43. No member of the Harijan community or the Scheduled Tribes is serving as Chairman of any municipal council."

*Number of lorries owned by Producers'-*cum*-Consumers' Co-operative Societies in Malabar.*

* 1240 *Q.*—SRI K. P. GOPALAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state how many lorries owned by the Producers'-*cum*-Consumers' Co-operative Societies in Malabar are having Public Carrier Permits and how many are not?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" Eight lorries owned by Producers'-*cum*-Consumers' Co-operative Societies in Malabar district have public carrier permits and fifty-four have private carrier permits."

SRI K. P. GOPALAN :—" As the Producers'-*cum*-Consumers' Co-operative Societies in Malabar are running at a loss, may I know whether the Government will be pleased to see that public carrier permits are given to these societies if they apply to the Government? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" The applications will be recommended by the Collector provided the concerned societies have made necessary provisions in their by-laws."

SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP :—" When this question came up on a previous occasion, the Hon. Minster in charge said that applications of Producers'-*cum*-Consumers' Co-operative Societies for conversion of private carrier permits into public carrier permits were considered sympathetically and rejected. May I know whether there is any change of attitude in the present difficult circumstances of the Producers'-*cum*-Consumers' Co-operative Societies? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" I have not been able to understand the implications of the supplementary question."

MR. SPEAKER :—" The hon. Member will please repeat his question."

SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP :—" When this question of converting private carriers owned by Producers'-*cum*-Consumers' Societies into public ones was raised previously, the Hon. Minister stated that the applications of these societies were sympathetically considered and then rejected. Their present condition have worsened still. Will the Hon. Minister, therefore, give a more sympathetic consideration to the applications of these societies? " 11-40 a.m.

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" The applications are considered with all the sympathy they deserve."